

TRIBUTE TO A HERO: JASON
SHRADER

HON. TILLIE K. FOWLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 24, 1999

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to honor a young man in my district. Last year, one of my constituents in Ormond Beach, Florida, risked his own life to save another man's life.

Jason Shrader was only 15 years old in May 1998 and just a freshman at Seabreeze High School when he rescued 40 year old Edward Skelton from drowning. Skelton and his girlfriend had gone swimming at the Division Avenue shell pit, a popular swimming hole, when he blacked out and went under. Jason, who was sitting on the shore with his friends, did not think twice before he dove in to search for Skelton.

As Jason himself so movingly described it, "I was scared that either I was going to die trying to save him or he was going to die before I could get him to safety. I grabbed his foot and pulled him to the surface. He had turned blue from lack of oxygen, the cold water, and being at a depth of fifteen feet of water."

Fortunately for Mr. Skelton, Jason is a Boy Scout—an experience that taught him how to perform CPR, and allowed him to keep Mr. Skelton alive until paramedics arrived.

Too often we are too busy with our own lives to think about the people around us whom we may not know. Jason's selfless and heroic action reminds us that sometimes it is important to get involved and to do something. As the Bible says, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).

Jason is truly a role model for all of us and I commend him for his courage and bravery in the face of such a frightening and dangerous situation. The Coast Guard has issued a special award to recognize Jason's actions, awarding him the Meritorious Public Service Award. I wish to add my congratulations and applause for Jason Shrader, as he represents the definition of a true hero.

HONORING KSEE 24 HISPANIC-
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
HONOREES

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 24, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Hon. Jane Cardoza, Pilar De La Cruz, Gabriel Escalera, Frank C. Franco, and Dr. Cecilio Orozco for being selected as the 1999 Portraits of Success program honorees by KSEE 24 and Companies that Care. In celebration Hispanic-American Heritage Month for September, these five leaders were honored for their unique contributions to the betterment of their community.

KSEE 24 and Companies that Care launched the 1999 Portraits of Success program to honor five distinguished local leaders in celebration of Hispanic-American Heritage month. Currently in its fifth year, this special

project combines specially produced public service announcements, a five-part news series, plus an awards luncheon to publicly recognize the unique contributions of the Hon. Jane Cardoza, Pilar de la Cruz, Gabriel Escalera, Frank C. Franco and Dr. Cecilio Orozco.

Since graduating from law school in 1981, Judge Cardoza started her law career in the Fresno County District Attorney's office, proceeding to the offices of the Fresno City Attorney and State Attorney General, Fresno County Municipal Court and now is the Presiding Judge of Family Law for the Fresno County Superior Court. She is active in the San Joaquin College of Law Board of Trustees, the Fresno Metropolitan Museum Board of Trustees, Fresno Metropolitan Rotary, Fresno City College Puente Project Mentoring Program and Domestic Violence Roundtable.

Pilar de la Cruz began her nursing career in 1969 at Fresno Community Hospital and has moved up the corporate ladder to become vice-president of Education Department at Fresno Community. She has been instrumental in the development of the Jefferson Job Institute, a program to provide training for parents of school children for entry-level jobs in hospital settings. Ms. De la Cruz was named 1998 Volunteer of the Year by the American Health Association and 1997 RN of the Year by the Central Valley Coalition of Nursing Organizations. She received the Latina Beyond Boundaries Award in Healthcare for 1998.

Gabriel Escalera has been in the field of education for 27 years, as principal of Alta Sierra Intermediate School for five years and is the principal of Gateway High School. His college major was physical education; played football for San Diego State and was an athletic director and coached football and wrestling for 12 years. Mr. Escalera is president of the Fresno chapter of the Association of Mexican-American Educators and is also president of the Fresno chapter of ACSA. He is a member of the Latino Educational Issues Roundtable and numerous professional and service organizations.

Mr. Franco is Business Development Manager for the Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission and has been with the Commission for 16 years. He is Chairperson of the Board of the Metropolitan Flood Control District which is instrumental in developing new parks, is past president and board member of Central California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Franco enjoys working for the benefit of children and serves as a board member for Genesis, Inc., a group home for girls that also provides substance abuse counseling for women.

Dr. Orozco is Professor Emeritus at CSUF's School of Education. In 1980 in Utah he discovered the origins of the Nahaatl people, the ancestors of the Anasazi and Aztecs, and has repeatedly visited the sites. One of his proudest accomplishments was proposing the name of Miguel Hidalgo Elementary School which was the first school in Fresno to be named for a Hispanic, and this effort was partially responsible for his receiving the National Association for Bilingual Education's "Pioneer In Bilingual Education Medal" in 1997. Dr. Orozco published a book explaining the details of the Sun Stone of the Mexicas and the Aztec Calendar and in 1998 published (in Spanish) the essence of his research on the work of Lic. Al-

fonso Rivas Salmon which dealt with the origins of the Nahuatl people.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the contributions of Judge Jane Cardoza, Pilar De La Cruz, RN, Gabriel Escalera, Frank C. Franco, and Dr. Cecilio Orozco for the month of September, Hispanic-American Heritage Month. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing these honorees many more years of continued success.

H.R. 2684, VA-HUD
APPROPRIATIONS

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 24, 1999

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, it is our duty to fulfill our promises to our nation's veterans, the men and women who have put themselves in harm's way in service to their country. It is our duty to care for our veterans, and if we pass this legislation, we will fail miserably.

We are faced today with a bill that fails to deliver to our veterans the funding they so desperately need. If we pass this bill, we will only be perpetuating the failure of the President's severely lacking budget. Even though this bill would provide \$1.7 billion more than the President's request, it is still not nearly enough. Two wrongs do not make a right, and if we pass this legislation our veterans will be wronged yet again, by Congress as well as the Administration.

The Republican leadership would have you believe that the Independent Budget submitted by the veterans themselves is bloated and overstates the funding needs for veterans programs. I reject this assertion completely and am horrified that the Republicans are alleging double-counting and padding of budget estimates by respected veterans' groups such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, AMVETS, and Paralyzed Veterans of America.

As if these allegations were not enough, the Republican leadership is now touting this anemic bill as a cause for celebration and criticizing veterans for "complaining" when they fail to celebrate over a bill that is lacking over one billion in critically needed funds. The Republicans have resorted to these tactics against veterans who fought to preserve the prosperity of this country—the prosperity in which veterans will not share if this bill is passed. These accusations are a slap in the face to our veterans and add insult to injury.

As a strong supporter of our nation's veterans, I am forced today to vote against this bill due to its severe lack of funding for veterans' programs. Veterans groups agree that this bill falls short by at least \$1.1 billion. In light of projected budget surpluses and an irresponsible trillion dollar tax cut, it is especially disappointing to see the men and women who have served this country overlooked by those who would rather squander the surplus recklessly than use it to secure the future of critical programs such as veterans benefits and Social Security and reduction of our growing national debt.

Our veterans are aging, and their medical needs are growing as a result. This bill, however, does not address those needs. The number of VA medical facilities has decreased